

Tree Planting Checklist

Select Quality Stock

- Purchase trees from a reputable nursery.
- Select well-trained, healthy trees with good form and labeled with their Latin names.
- Make sure trees are protected during transport.
- One-year guarantee is standard, but some nurseries offer 2 years.

Determine Planting Depth

Dig the Hole

- The wider the better
- Make arrangements to haul away extra soil instead of piling it around the tree.

Remove the Burlap & Twine or Container

- Burlap wicks water away from the roots. Sure, it may *eventually* break down; but what about the most critical first years after transplanting when the trees need a lot of water?
- Twine can girdle the tree as the trunk grows.

Inspect the Roots

- Check for and remove potential girdling roots.

Water

- WATER! WATER! WATER!

Mulch

- 2-3 inches maximum of hardwood bark mulch is the best.
- Leave an inch or two free around the trunk so that the tree doesn't respond as if it is planted too deeply.

Remove Tree Wrap

- We once thought this was for the good of the trees. It actually does little if anything to reduce sunscald and often times ends up holding in moisture.
- Another problem is that a lot of tree wrap is tied on with twine. Folks often forget to take them off resulting in girdled trunks.

Stake Only When Necessary

- Research indicates that staked trees lack the trunk strength of their unstaked counterparts. If you have good stock and the tree is planted correctly, then staking is usually unnecessary.
- Trees planted in sandier soil, on windy sites, or larger trees with a heavy crown may need to be staked for 6-12 months until some roots are established.

